

In her twenty-four years as a director of Mary Kay Cosmetics, Kay has served as a shining example of determination and hard work. While her efforts have produced bonuses and excursions to exotic locations such as Hong Kong and Switzerland, she remains committed to her family. She has four adult children and three grandchildren, not to mention her husband, Robert Zuckerman. I know they are proud of Kay's many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join Kay Hall's colleagues in commending her for her many years of exemplary and dedicated service to Mary Kay Cosmetics. Her debut as a National Sales Director is a deserved honor indeed. Ms. Hall has left an indelible mark on not only the Mary Kay community, but also on southeastern Michigan. Again, I extend my congratulations and birthday wishes.

#### RECOGNIZING KENTUCKY'S NURSES

#### HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2002*

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an important group of Kentuckians who continue to exhibit an incredible dedication to serving others. Nurses remain an integral part of our Kentucky community, as they are vital to our well-being and survival. The American Nurses Association and the Kentucky Nurses Association have declared May 6 to May 12, 2002 as Kentucky Nurses' week, and I encourage all Kentuckians to join with me in honoring the nursing profession.

The men and women of the nursing profession proudly represent all races, religions and creeds in a variety of settings. Whether serving in a large hospital, a small doctor's office or in one of their many other capacities, nurses are committed to providing quality health care to all citizens. As the nation's largest group of health professionals, nurses are assuming an ever increasing responsibility and accountability for their community's health care needs. They have continued to demonstrate their professionalism by striving to upgrade care standards and improve their services. In fact, I'm sure we can all remember a time where a nurse's kind words, or gentle smile, provided comfort.

With a wide variety of responsibilities, nurses are always prepared to offer the best possible health care to their patients. Nurses are there to help the sick get better and to make sure the healthy stay that way. Appropriately, the Kentucky theme this year is "Unsung Heroes." I am proud to call attention to all of the nurses in our Kentucky community and hope you will join with me in celebrating the tireless efforts of our "unsung heroes."

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA-DULUTH ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2002*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the University of Minnesota-Duluth Women's Hockey team and the University of Minnesota Men's Hockey and Wrestling teams for winning the 2002 National Collegiate Athletic Association championships. This great achievement honors the players, coaches, their respective schools and all Minnesotans.

The sport of hockey has a long and storied tradition in Minnesota and is recognized nationally as one of the leading states for the development of hockey players. From youth leagues to amateur leagues to professional players, Minnesota is known for producing some of the greatest hockey players in the history of the sport. It is only fitting, therefore, that both the women and men's hockey 2002 NCAA Championships were won by Minnesota schools.

Both the Bulldogs' 3-2 victory over Brown, which was their second in a row, and the Gophers' 4-3 victory over Maine were exhilarating wins, that kept all Minnesotans on the edge of their seats. Each of these teams deserves to be commended for their outstanding seasons.

I also want to recognize the 2002 Gophers men's wrestling team for another outstanding year. While not as well known as hockey, collegiate wrestling in Minnesota has made an outstanding name for itself, culminating in the Gophers' 2002 National Championship—also their second straight. In addition to the team championship, 2 members of the team earned individual wrestling titles and 7 garnered All-American honors. All the Gophers wrestlers and coaches deserve our congratulations.

I am especially proud that each of these three teams excelled in the classroom, as well as the playing field. In a day and age where all-too-often academics takes a back seat to athletics on many college campuses, all three teams maintained grade point averages that were above the university averages. The University of Minnesota and Minnesota-Duluth should be proud to recognize these true student athlete champions.

Congratulations to the University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota-Duluth on their achievements.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSE EDUCATION PROMOTION ACT

#### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2002*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Nurses Week, and I am pleased today to join my good friend ERNIE FLETCHER in introducing important legislation that helps address the nursing shortage. Nurses constitute the nation's largest group of healthcare

professionals. They serve in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, managed care facilities and community health centers, and their work is invaluable.

Unfortunately, there is an emerging labor shortage among this group of healthcare professionals. Fewer and fewer people are choosing nursing as a career. According to the General Accounting Office, between 1993 and 1996 enrollments at two-year associate degree programs dropped 11%, while enrollments at three-year diploma programs dropped 42%. Between 1995 and 1998, enrollments at four-year bachelors programs dropped 19%. Even so, the demand for nurses is increasing, and it will only grow as the baby boomers retire. The Congressional Research Service projects that the supply of nurses will fail to meet demand by 2010.

This crisis threatens to compromise the quality of healthcare in this country. Indeed, the Department of Health & Human Services reports that there is a "strong and consistent relationship" between nurse staffing and patient health. The GAO reports that between 2000 and 2030, the group of Americans who are 65 years of age and older will double. At the same time, the number of women between 25 and 54—the group that traditionally comprises most of the nursing workforce—is expected to remain the same. Mr. Speaker, more than ever we need nurses to care for our seniors. Unless we create incentives and opportunities for men and women to choose nursing as a career, this country will face a crisis in this decade.

To address this problem, my friend ERNIE FLETCHER and I have today introduced the bipartisan Nurse Education Promotion Act. Our bill addresses the nursing shortage in a number of important ways. First, it would establish a competitive grant program for associate degree nursing schools to be used for nursing student recruitment, student scholarships, and the hiring of faculty. Second, the bill would establish a competitive grant program for professional nurses associations, so that they may establish and administer continuing education programs, in cooperation with area hospitals and higher education institutions.

Under the continuing education programs, the nurses association would coordinate class work at a central location for which nurses could receive college credit towards a BSN (or equivalent degree) and/or training in an understaffed and critical nursing specialty. The clinical portion of the continuing education could be done at any of the participating hospitals.

While we support other legislation to alleviate the nursing shortage, we believe that by focusing on the two-year schools our bill gets nurses into the field more quickly. By providing money for continuing education, we hope to ensure that nurses are able to meet the changing and increasingly complex demands of our healthcare system. We hope our colleagues will join us in our efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and head off a major healthcare crisis that is just on the horizon.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUG DEAN

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 7, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Doug